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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Engineering

..... M O N T H L Y . . . N E W S . . . L E T T E R . . .

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O. V. P. STOUT

Dr. O. V. P. Stout, who for the past 13 years has been connected with the Berkeley, California office of the Division of Irrigation, died at Denver, Colorado, August 4, following an operation for appendicitis. At the time of his death he was on a special assignment for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Dr. Stout was born in Jerseyville, Ill., November 14, 1865. He was a graduate of the University of Nebraska, with which institution he was connected for nearly 30 years as faculty member and later as Dean of the College of Engineering. He was largely responsible for the introduction of agricultural engineering into the curriculum at the University and for its gradual development into an independent department in the College of Engineering. For his outstanding achievement in agriculture, he was the recipient in 1932 of the first Cyrus Hall McCormick medal of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. He obtained the military title of Major of Engineering in the World War. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and the Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Beta Theta Pi, and Sigma Tau societies. Dr. Stout was held in highest esteem by all with whom he was associated. At Berkeley he was frequently visited by former students who have risen to eminence in engineering and other professions largely as a result of the wise guidance he gave them as young men. Interment was at Berkeley on August 9.

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: The Bureau of Internal Revenue has ruled in connection :
: with reporting income that an individual who is repaid for :
: actual traveling expenses shall include in gross income the :
: amount so repaid and may deduct such expenses; and also that :
: an individual receiving an allowance for meals and lodging :
: such as a per diem allowance in lieu of subsistence, the amount :
: of such allowance should be included in gross income and the :
: cost of such meals and lodging may be deducted therefrom. In :
: the near future a circular giving instructions for submitting :
: expense accounts and also a copy of a circular from the Office :
: of Budget and Finance of the Department will be sent to each :
: employee. :
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: A committee has been appointed to revise and bring up- :
: to-date, and to issue in a more convenient and usable form :
: the Fiscal, Administrative and Property Regulations of the :
: Department. Suggestions are invited from all members of the :
: Department. These should be addressed to Geo. P. Wolf, :
: administrative officer of the Bureau. :
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In connection with the project "Snow Surveys and Streamflow Forecasting", J. C. Marr reported that the snow course location work in Idaho had been completed for the Blackfoot River and the Boise River watersheds. Also a portion of this work had been done on the Payette and the Wood River watersheds. Prof. George D. Clyde of Utah Agricultural College, who is cooperating on this project, in company with R.L. Parshall made a reconnaissance survey in Wyoming for the purpose of establishing snow courses in favorable locations where depth of snow and water content observations will be made next spring, these data to furnish a basis for forecasting stream run-off from the higher mountain areas. Where possible, the snow courses were laid out in connection with snow stakes which will tie in previous records of depths.

At the meeting of the Irrigation Division, American Society of Civil Engineers, in Los Angeles on July 4, Fred C. Scobey gave an address on "Recent Construction in Western Water Conduits - from the Viewpoint of Capacity and Flow Conditions." Pertinent points were illustrated with colored lantern slides. An article on this subject has been prepared by Mr. Scobey for publication in Civil Engineering.

Evaporation studies at the La Verne, Calif., city reservoir are being made by A.A. Young for the purpose of determining differences in evaporation from a covered reservoir and from surfaces exposed to the outside air. Apparently there is no constant difference in loss between the inside and the outside pan. During June evaporation from the inside pan was approximately one-third of that from the outside pan, but for parts of July the evaporation from the reservoir was about one tenth of that outside.

Harry F. Blaney spent the greater part of the month of July in Berkeley in the preparation of the report by himself and P.A. Ewing on "Utilization of the Waters of the Mojave River, California."

At the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Experiment Station Leslie Bowen is making some special experiments on irrigation of beans, potatoes, and beets, it being his aim to make all factors affecting growth, except water, a constant. The time and amount of water applied varies at different irrigations. Gophers have interfered greatly with irrigation studies.

A study of the agricultural situation in the vicinity of Snowflake, Arizona, was made by Karl Harris. Special advice and assistance was given in the matter of measurement of irrigation water.

L.A. Jones will leave Washington to confer with J. G. Sutton at Milwaukee regarding the work of the C.C.C. camps in the latter's territory, after which he will inspect several of the camps. Before returning to Washington, Mr. Jones will confer with B.O. Childs regarding the work of the camps in Louisiana. As of August 20, 33 out of the 47 camps assigned to drainage maintenance work had been established and in operation, and 4 additional camps were expected to start within a week. The camps are doing good work and the local people are cooperating by furnishing equipment. In several instances local interests have furnished drag-line excavating equipment at their own expense.

At the request of local interests, B.S. Clayton has recently inspected the ground water conditions near Miami, Florida.

In connection with experiments in the irrigation of strawberries being conducted by this Bureau in cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry, F. E. Staebner recently made a trip to Willard, N.C. to inspect the experimental work at that place.

D. L. Yarnell is inspecting flood damages along the Missouri River from its mouth to Kansas City, Mo.

On August 8 a large group of farmers and ginners from Bolivar and Sunflower Counties, Mississippi, visited the Cotton Ginning Laboratories at Stoneville, as a part of a special program in conjunction with the Delta Experiment Station. Much interest was manifest in the results of the ginning experiments conducted at the laboratories. On August 9, under the direction of C. C. Smith, District Agent of Extension, over 100 ginners from Washington County and other South Delta Counties of Mississippi assembled at the Stoneville laboratories for the primary purpose of learning the results of the cotton ginning investigations and discussing ways to improve ginning.

The Sixteenth Annual Delta Day was observed on August 13 by the Delta Experiment Station and the Federal Laboratories at Stoneville. Several thousand ginners, farmers, and others interested in agricultural problems were present to hear, among others, Chester C. Davis, Chief, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D.C. and Oscar Johnston, Scott, Miss.

On Aug. 15 C.A. Bennett attended a meeting of ginners at Clarksdale, Miss., in cooperation with the Agricultural Committee of the Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce, and discussed the results of the ginning investigations.

Under the direction of J. W. Bateman, Agricultural Extension Director of Louisiana, Mr. Bennett conferred, on August 16, with a committee of the Louisiana Legislature at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, concerning the technical aspects of ginning.

A paper on "Development of Tillage Machinery and Methods Suitable to the Southeast" by J. W. Randolph was read before the Georgia State Agricultural Society at Albany, Georgia, August 7.

E. D. Gordon reports that the thermal efficiency of the vertical drum experimental dryer is, so far, rather low. The power requirements for evaporating 1,000 pounds of water are 31 percent lower than for the apron conveyor dryer, but are about the same as for the double-drum rotary dryer.

Cooperative fertilizer-application studies with cannery peas at Geneva, N.Y., this season indicate that the existing method of applying fertilizers in the furrow with the seed by means of a grain drill is very ineffective, according to G.A. Cumings. The advantages of some separation of seed and fertilizer in the soil were so striking that canners and growers have requested immediate release of the findings.

G.A. Cumings and L. G. Schoenleber were at Norfolk, Virginia, the first part of August, applying fertilizers for cooperative placement experiments with kale. On August 7 fertilizer application problems were discussed with a number of Southeastern agronomists, who were visiting the Virginia Truck Experiment Station on their annual tour.

Early in August E. M. Mervine trucked a sugar beet harvester to Davis, California, where he and S. W. McBirney tested it for performance. This harvester is the fourth year's revision and is giving evidence of being a commercially acceptable machine.

During the latter part of July and the early part of August, Messrs. Hurst and Humphries made field investigations, of the "Baby Combine". This machine has a five-foot width of cut and is operated by power take-off from the tractor which pulls it. These small machines are operated as high as five miles per hour ground speed and the threshing cylinder runs up to 1800 r.p.m. Tests on the machines showed that, generally, under similar field conditions they were about as efficient in harvesting and threshing grain crops as the larger combines. In standing grain they were doing a very satisfactory job at approximately five miles per hour. This speed, however, was unfortunately approached on many fields which were badly lodged and weedy, with the result that much grain was thrown out with the straw and weeds. Several engineering weaknesses developed but most of these were apparently being met and adjusted by the manufacturer.

Thayer Cleaver, in cooperation with Prof. Shawl of the Illinois Experiment Station, has prepared a manuscript for a bulletin, entitled "Better Plowing". This contains a very thorough discussion of the handling and adjusting of the moldboard plow to produce a good job of plowing.

Bulletins issued:

Farmers' Bulletin 1748 "Ginning Cotton"